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assign a network name to said second device on said network;
supply user and group information across said network; and
determine service capability of said second device on said network,
wherein if said first device is capable of providing configuration services to said
network; and
provide configuration services to one or more devices of said network if
configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher
priority than said device.

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Please cancel claims 29-30 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18, 21 and 26 have been amended. Claims 29 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-7 and 12-28 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12, 17-19, 26, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,167,446 issued to Lister, et al. (*Lister*). Claims 29 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, the rejection of claims 29 and 30 as being anticipated by *Lister* is moot. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 12, 17-19 and 26 are not anticipated by *Lister*.

Claim 12 recites the following:

automatically determining service capability of said device on said network, wherein if said device is capable of providing configuration services to said network; and

providing configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said device.

Thus, Applicants claim automatically supplying user and group information and automatically determining service capability of a device and selectively providing configuration services. Claim 26 similarly recites a device configured to automatically supply user and group information and automatically determine service capability of the device and selectively providing configuration services.

Lister discloses maintaining a DRS database to track a client list, a proxy site, an alias name and a source server. See col. 9, lines 29-60. However, *Lister* does not disclose selectively providing configuration services.. Therefore, *Lister* does not anticipate the invention as claimed in claims 12 and 26.

Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 12. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 17 and 18 are not anticipated by *Lister* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 13-16, 20-25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lister*. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants submit that claims 1-7, 13-16, 20-25, 27 and 28 are not rendered obvious by *Lister*.

Claim 1 recites the following:

providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if the response to said configuration information request is not received by the local device from said remote device within a predetermined period of time;

providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if said local device has a higher priority than said remote device; and

operating the local device as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device.

Thus, Applicants claim determining which of multiple devices provides configuration services to the network. A device can provide configuration services to the network, or the device can receive configuration services from another device on the network based on, for example, priorities. Claim 21 similarly recites determining which of multiple devices provides configuration services.

Lister is directed to a network proxy cache that provides tracking of names. See, for example, the Summary of the Invention. *Lister* does not disclose a device that selectively provides configuration services and can operate as a client device. Therefore, *Lister* does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 21.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1. Claims 22-25 depend from claim 21. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 2-7 and 22-25 are not rendered obvious by *Lister* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 13 depends from claim 12 and recites management of user and group information. *Lister* does not teach or suggest management of user and/or group information. Therefore, *Lister* does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claim 13.

Claims 14-16 depend from claim 13. Because dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, Applicants submit that claims 14-16 are not rendered obvious by *Lister* for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 12. Applicants submit that claims 19 and 20 are not rendered obvious by *Lister* for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 12. Claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 26. Applicants submit that claims 27 and 28 are not rendered obvious by *Lister* for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 26.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-7 and 12-28 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date:

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MARKED VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A method [of initializing a device on a network]
comprising:
requesting, with a local device, configuration information from a remote device
coupled to the network in response to connecting the local device to the network;
[waiting a period of time for a response to the request for configuration
information;]
providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if
the response to said configuration information request is not received by the local device
from said remote device within a predetermined [said] period of time;
providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if
said local device has a higher priority than said remote device; and
operating the local device as a client device to said remote device if said remote
device has a higher priority than said local device
[monitoring said network to detect a connection of an additional device to said
network].

2. (Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said providing [said]
configuration services comprises:
automatically determining a first network address;
automatically assigning a second network address;
automatically assigning a network name;

automatically correlating said first network address, said second network address,
and said network name; and
recording said correlated first network address, said correlated second network
address and said correlated network name in a table.

6. (Amended) The method defined in claim 2, wherein said network name is
suggested by said local [first] device.

7. (Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said predetermined
period of time is varied so as to prevent race conditions.

12. (Twice Amended) A method [of initializing a network] comprising:
automatically assigning an address to a local device on said network;
automatically assigning a network name to said local device [on said network];
automatically supplying user and group information across said network; and
automatically determining service capability of said local device [on said
network]including whether said local device is capable of providing configuration
services to one or more remote devices of said network;
providing configuration services to one or more devices of said network if
configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than
said local device; and
operating as a client device to a remote device if said remote device has a higher
priority than said local device.

13. (Amended) The method defined in claim 12, wherein supplying user and group information comprises:

detecting when said local device is connected to said network;

sending a first user and group list to said local device in response to said local device connecting to said network;

said local device comparing said first user and group list with a second user and group list resident on said local device; and

said local device determining whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent;

receiving a more recent user and group list from said local device;

updating said user and group information to reflect said more recent user and group list; and

propagating said updated user and group information throughout said network.

18. (Amended) The method defined claim 12, wherein said network name is suggested by said local device.

21. (Amended) A network comprising:

a first device coupled to said network, said first device configured to automatically

request a first network address;

receive a first network address from a second device coupled to said network;

provide a network configuration if said first network address is not received from said second device;

determine its priority level on said network if said first network address is received from said second device; [and]

provide said network configuration if said priority level is higher than a second priority level of said second device; and

operate as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.

26. (Amended) A network comprising:

a first device configured to

assign an address to a second device on said network;

assign a network name to said second device on said network;

supply user and group information across said network; and

determine service capability of said second device on said network,

wherein if said first device is capable of providing configuration services to said network; and

provide configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said device.